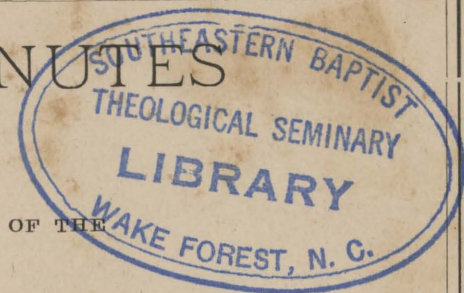


MINUTES



OF THE

OCMULGEE ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

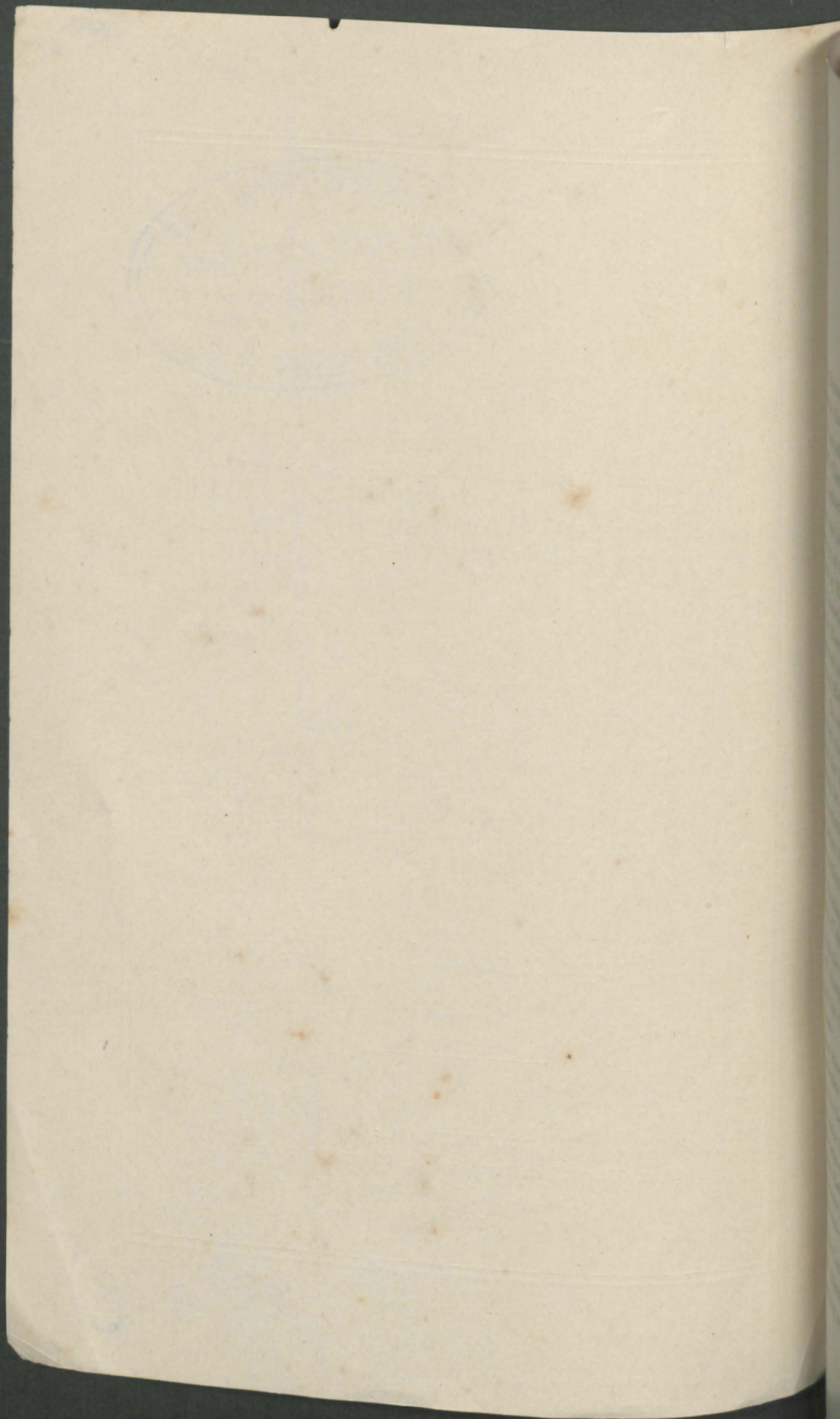
CHURCH AT EPHEBUS, MONROE COUNTY, GA.

Sept. 9, 10 and 11, 1892.

COLUMBUS, GA.:

Thos. Gilbert, Printing, Book-Binding, Paper Boxes
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1892.



MINUTES

*Of the Ocmulgee Association, held with the Church at Ephesus,
Monroe County, Ga., September the 9th, 10th and 11th, 1892.*

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. Isaac Jones, of North Carolina, from John i. 9, "That was the True Light which Lighteth Every Man that Cometh into the World."

After one hour's intermission the messengers met in the house. Preaching at the stand by Eld. G. F. Powell, from the Ebenezer; followed by Eld. W. W. West, from the Marietta.

The Association was opened with prayer by Eld. J. N. Nobles, from the Ebenezer.

Received letters from eleven churches, and minuted their state.

Elected Eld. D. L. HITCHCOCK, Moderator, and D. G. McCOWEN, Clerk. To write the next Circular Letter, J. A. Adams.

Invited visiting and corresponding brethren to seats with us. Read the Decorum.

Called for petitionary letters.

On motion, agreed to adopt the same plan in reference to business before the Association as that of last year.

On motion, the following Committees were appointed:

On Preaching—J. A. Adams, J. W. Hargroves, E. M. Moore, J. H. Meeks, G. T. Souther, with Moderator and church delegation.

To Write the Corresponding Letter—J. H. Gresham, D. G. McCowen and J. W. Hargroves.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and received as follows:

Yellow River—Eld. William Adams and Bro. John Adams, with letter and minutes.

Oconee—Letter and minutes.

Primitive Ebenezer—Elds. G. F. Powell, J. N. Nobles.

Marietta—Eld. W. W. West, with letter and minutes.

Olive—Letter and minutes.

Delaware River and Warwick—Letter and minutes.

Kehukee—

The Committee to arrange Preaching, reported that Eld. William Adams would commence preaching at the stand to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, followed by Eld. J. N. Nobles.

After one hour's intermission, Eld. Thomas Reynolds would preach.

Called for the Circular letter prepared by Eld. J. N. Gresham, which was read, received and adopted.

The Association then adjourned to 8:30 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Eld. William Adams.

SATURDAY MORNING.

8:30 O'CLOCK—The Association met again and was opened with prayer by Eld. G. F. Powell.

Called for further correspondence and received Elds. Isaac Jones, G. W. Head, Thomas Reynolds, and Brethren Joe McGehee, William McLemurry and S. S. Mullens as visiting brethren.

Appointed correspondents to sister Associations as follows:

Yellow River—W. S. Lunsford, G. D. Carter, J. W. Hargroves and Eld. J. T. Glover.

Oconee—Letter and minutes.

Primitive Ebenezer—Elds. D. L. Hitchcock, J. H. Gresham, and Bro. T. C. Haddock.

Olive—Letter and minutes.

Delaware River and Warwick—Letter and minutes.

Kehukee—Letter and minutes.

Appointed General Meetings as follows:

First District—Shoal Creek, Newton county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the fifth Sunday in July, 1893.

Second District—Ephesus, Monroe county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1893.

Called for, read and adopted the Corresponding Letter.

Called for miscellaneous business.

Resolved, That this Association feel to give thanks to Almighty God, and to the brethren, sisters and friends in this vicinity for the hospitality we have received during the meeting.

The next session of our body is appointed to be held with the church at Fellowship, Jasper county, Ga., six miles west of Monticello, and eight miles east of Flovilla, commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1893.

Agreed to have 800 copies of these minutes printed, and that the Clerk attend to the printing and distribution of the same, and

that he receive for his services the balance of the money after paying for the above number.

Called for contributions and distributed corresponding minutes.

Adjourned, prayer by Bro. John Adams.

D. L. HITCHCOCK, *Moderator.*

D. G. McCOWEN, *Clerk.*

SATURDAY MORNING—10 O'CLOCK—Met at the stand and the brethren appointed, preached to a large and attentive congregation.

SUNDAY MORNING—Met again; preaching by Eld. Isaac Jones. In the afternoon Eld. J. N. Nobles preached, closed by the Moderator.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES	COUNTIES	MESSENGERS' NAMES	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Dis'm'd by Letter	Excluded	Dead	Total	Associational Fund	Meeting Days
Eanon.....	Putnam.....	Elder D. L. Hitchcock, J. H. Meeks.....	1	...	...	...	...	26	\$3 00	4
New Salem.....	Putnam.....	N. W. Boon.....	...	...	...	...	1	3	1 00	2
Crooked Creek.....	Putnam.....	J. W. Hargroves.....	...	2	...	...	3	41	2 50	1
Murder Creek.....	Jasper.....	Sent Letter.....	1	2	...	...	2	27	1 50	1
Shoal Creek.....	Newton.....	W. S. Lunsford, G. D. Carter.....	...	2	1	...	...	49	3 00	4
County Line.....	Jones.....	G. W. Marsh, J. A. Adams.....	...	1	...	...	...	31	2 75	1
New Hope.....	Jones.....	Elders J. H. Gresham, J. T. Glover.....	...	1	1	...	1	53	3 00	4
Mt. Zion.....	Jones.....	G. T. Souther, J. M. Mercer.....	2	2	2	1	...	15	1 50	3
Ephesus.....	Monroe.....	W. T. Ingram, W. D. Henseley.....	...	...	...	...	...	23	2 00	2
Smyrna.....	Monroe.....	D. G. McCowen, E. M. Moore.....	...	...	...	...	2	41	2 00	1
Fellowship.....	Jasper.....	B. F. Tyler, Z. T. Willingham.....	...	...	...	...	...	10	50	2

MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.

D. L. HITCHCOCK, Stansfordville, Putnam county, Ga.

D. G. McCOWEN, Forsyth, Monroe county, Ga.

J. H. GRESHAM, Pippin, Jones county, Ga.

J. T. GLOVER, Dames-Ferry, Ga.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Ocmulgee Association in Session with the Church at Ephesus, Monroe County, Ga., September 9, 10, and 11, 1892, to the Sister Associations with whom she Corresponds, sends Christian Love:

BELOVED BRETHREN—The good Lord has spared us, and blessed us with the privilege once more, of holding another pleasant session of our body. The churches are small with but few additions, but blessed with peace and love. Your correspondents were gladly received and our poor hearts made to rejoice, to hear God's ministering servants proclaim the richness of his grace, through a crucified, but now a risen Saviour, ascribing all power and honor to his holy name.

Dear brethren, we desire a continuation of your sweet correspondence, and may God, in his rich mercy, keep you, and us, from every false way, and from the evils of this sin-stained world, and that we may be knit together by that love and sweet communion that so much becomes the church of Christ, is our prayer.

The next session of our body is appointed to be held with the church at Fellowship, Jasper county, Ga., six miles west of Monticello, and eight miles east of Flovilla, commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1893, when we hope to meet you again.

D. G. McCOWEN, *Clerk.*

D. L. HITCHCOCK, *Moderator.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ocmulgee Primitive Baptist Association in Session With the Church at Ephesus, Monroe County, Ga., September 9, 10, and 11, 1892, to the Churches Composing the same:

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD—The time has come that it becomes our duty, as well as privilege, to address you in the way of a circular letter, and for a foundation for what we may write, we call your attention to Romans, xiv. 19. Nothing could be of more importance to us, as the professed followers of our blessed Master, than to heed the exhortation contained in the Scripture. The great Apostle to the Gentiles in writing to this church, said that, "Whatsoever things were written afore time, were written for our learning, etc.;" and again to Timothy, that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Dear brethren, the Scriptures that we have penned down, covers a great deal, but no more than the church of Christ claims to believe, and to practice. When the promised Messiah made his advent into this world,

the announcement by the Heavenly messengers, was, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward man. This shows, as well as all the Scriptures, the mission of our blessed Lord. When he set up his kingdom, it was a manifestation of the glorious purpose of God, and fulfilling the same. He was obedient in all things, as a perfect pattern for his followers through all time. Therefore, he chose his Disciples and taught them, and continues to call, and to teach them. How glorious indeed is the work of our God. No wonder that the Apostle should exclaim in the sublime language of inspiration, "O, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God." How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out. In the church of which Christ is the head, he is its lawgiver. Therefore, in the new Covenant, he says, "I will put my laws in their hands, and write them in their hearts, etc." When this is done for us, we are then not under the law of condemnation, but under law to Christ, and we are then in our first love, as our Saviour commanded, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," we then walking in his ordinances feel the answer of a good conscience toward God. One of the seven Churches was reproved and told to remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works. O, brethren, have we left our first love? if, indeed, this has been the case with any of the flocks of our great shepherd, which we fear sometimes is the case. Oh, that God would give us repentance to the acknowledgement of the truth. In the Scriptures the Apostle beseeches his brethren to mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them. It is to be regretted we fear, in our day, that there is too much of this. One says he is for Paul, and another for Apollos, and others for Christ. He asked, "Was Paul crucified for any of you?" This caused grief to the Apostle, therefore he reproved them, and taught them to be followers of him, as he followed Christ. Now, in the text we find the rule that should govern us in our lives if we would follow our blessed head, and the law he has given us. Therefore, let us follow after the things that which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. How is this to be done? The word *let*, is used here, and again. The Apostle says, "let brotherly love continue," which implies that we can hinder or prevent its continuing. To comply with the text, we must not cause divisions and offences, and we must not grieve the Holy Spirit, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption. But as the church of Christ was, when assembled together in Jerusalem, we are taught in Scripture, that they had all things common, and continued steadfast in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship, and that they were of one heart, and one soul. And Paul to the church at Corinth, that they should be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgement. And again, as it becomes us to be faithful, "If any come unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God's speed, for he that biddeth him God's speed, partakes of his evil deed." The doctrine here presented, is the Bible

doctrine. The Apostle calls it the doctrine according to Godliness, which, to our understanding, is set fourth in the truth of the spirit, which is felt within by those who are born again. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil, is understanding. Oh, brethren, we beseech you to let the graces be in exercise; and if we live according to our first love, there would be no cause for trouble, but peace would abound among all the families from the rivers to the end of the earth. The sweet Psalmist said, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Again, "Happy is the people whose God is the Lord." If we could always keep in mind the beautiful, and instructive lesson our Master taught his followers, when he sit a little child in the midst of them, and said, "Whosoever is converted and becomes as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven," there would be no strife, but love and peace would abound; to us this way, the one that is truly the humblest, the most Christ-like, is the greatest in the church of Christ. The confusions and discord that is among our ranks, are not the fruit of those that are truly great in the kingdom; we would exhort the churches to faithfulness in the discharge of all the duties that the Head requires of her, and in doing of this we will comply with the text at the head of this letter. We are taught to put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness, and let the peace of God rule in your hearts; and when we do this, we are following after things that make for peace.

Now, in conclusion, let us say to the dear brethren everywhere, be watchful and faithful, and as Jesus laid down his life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren in loving service and sacrifice. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy upon the Israel of God. Amen.

D. L. HITCHCOCK, *Moderator.*

D. G. McCOWEN, *Clerk.*